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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Executive Registry

71-5578/a

9 November 1971

The Honorable William Proxmire, Chairman
Joint Economic Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

With regard to your 4 November letter requesting our assistance in assessing the economy of the Peoples Republic of China, let me assure you we will be most pleased to provide whatever help we can. Dr. Maurice Ernst, Director of the Office of Economic Research, will contact Dr. Hardt regarding our contribution.

Sincerely,

STATINTL

Richard Helms
Director

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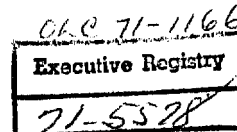
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November 4, 1971



Mr. Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia

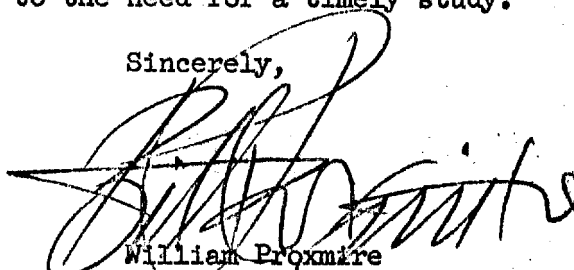


Dear Mr. Helms:

Your agency made a major contribution to a comprehensive two-volume study released by the Joint Economic Committee in 1967, "An Economic Profile of Mainland China." You can no doubt appreciate our desire to provide the Congress with a more current assessment of the economy of the Peoples Republic of China. Since our last publication, the "Cultural Revolution" has apparently run its course, and Chinese industry and agriculture are once more growing at an impressive rate. The opportunity for trade with the Chinese mainland offers interesting, albeit perhaps exaggerated prospects. We know your staff can make a vital contribution.

I understand that in the case of your agency a specific request is desirable in order to undertake this study. Would you please regard this as an official request. For technical questions your staff may wish to communicate with our Committee staff or Dr. John P. Hardt who is coordinating the study. Dr. Hardt is a senior specialist in Soviet economics at the Library of Congress. We are hopeful of having all inputs in by around March 1, 1972 in order to respond to the need for a timely study.

Sincerely,


William Proxmire
Chairman